

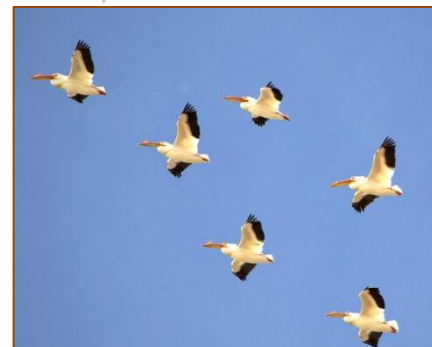
Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter

April 2013

What's New?

We've spotted several returning bird species this month! Settling in at the refuge you'll see Snowy egrets, Great egrets, American Pelicans, Clark's and Western grebes, Pied-billed grebes, Double-crested cormorants, Hooded and Common mergansers, American avocets, Yellow-headed blackbirds, Tree swallows, Long-billed curlew, Sand hill crane, Black-crowned night-herons, and Black-necked Stilts have been spotted. It's great to be barked at along the loop by pairs of Canada geese, see the various swallows flittering about, and especially to see the pelicans soaring high in the sky! Folks are also reporting sightings of a Golden eagle, Caspian terns, Franklin's gulls, and gadwall. Stay tuned for more!



Fourth graders are back in the house!! School children from near and far will be visiting the refuge again this spring to satisfy their core science requirements by learning about watersheds, macro-invertebrates, alien plants and much more! We can't wait to see them!

Important changes taking place this season: Please note that we will not be offering Guided Refuge Tours in the van this year. Also, the Ranger-led scout program has been discontinued; however there are some very cool scout folders available for troop leaders and scouts when they come to the Visitor Center. Please give these **Scout Folders** away. You will find these folders in the volunteer closet, straight back, about eye level. There are pencils and crayons available there as well.

Thumbs-Up!



We bid a bittersweet goodbye to Ranger Jason St. Sauver as he travels to Texas to begin the next part of his life journey. Our favorite bird-nerd has accepted a position at the Audubon Education Center in San Antonio, where he will serve as the center's Education Manager. "I love Texas and I am excited to work with the Audubon Society," Jason said. Jason, we are so grateful to have crossed paths with you and we hope you know that while we are glad you are taking advantage of this fantastic opportunity, you will be very greatly missed by all. Travel safely on eagle's wings and please come back to see us as soon as you can!

Thank you to all who joined us for Jason's going away party. Jason's last day is April 19th.



Refuge Roundup

A warm welcome to our new intern, Riley O'Brien!

You will see our newest intern around the Center as he begins his 3-month internship at the Refuge. Riley is excited to teach as an Environmental Education Specialist and to get to know the refuge and the Northern Utah area. Riley, who is originally from Rhode Island, received his degree in American Studies. He wrote his thesis on "The History of National Parks" which awakened a desire to know more about our national refuges. He just finished an internship at Minuteman National Historical Park where he his many duties included those of a Ranger, helping out at the visitor center, and many other tasks. He is looking forward to working with the 4th graders as they visit the Center, and anything else we can throw at him. He's been in Utah just a few days and already loves what he sees! Be sure to welcome him when you see him around. Welcome Riley!



Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

❖ April 13: **Sense of Wonder EARTH DAY Celebration!**

One of our favorite events of the year, in celebration of Earth Day and Rachel Carson's enduring spirit and work, Saturday, April 13 will be "Sense of Wonder" Day! Building on our success from last year, we have invited many of our amazing partners to have stations along the Wetland Walk – providing an educational and entertaining exploration for all ages! Filled with games, crafts and outdoor activities, "Sense of Wonder" Day will have many opportunities for volunteer help. Please let Katie or Jason know if you'd like to join in all the fun.



❖ May 11: **Jr. Duck Stamp Awards on International Migratory Bird Day!**



Saturday, May 11, is not only International Migratory Bird Day . . . it will be the Awards Ceremony here at the Refuge for the 2013 Utah Jr. Duck Stamp program! The amazing art will be on display from all of the winners, K-12, of the competition, including the Best of Show entry which will be sent on to compete in the National Jr. Duck Stamp competition. We will also have some open house activities like crafts, movies and Jr. Ranger activities – to continue the celebration of migratory birds around the world. We hope you'll join us, or consider helping out at the event!

Mark Your Calendars and Save the Dates!

- ❖ April 10: Jason St. Sauver going away party 12 – 2 p.m.
- ❖ April 13: Sense of Wonder / Earth Day!
- ❖ May 11: Intl. Migratory Bird Day & Jr. Duck Stamp Awards
- ❖ May 16 – 20: Great Salt Lake Bird Festival
- ❖ May 27: Memorial Day (we're closed)
- ❖ May 29 – 30: Bird Banner Parties
- ❖ June 10 – 14: Nature Art Camp

AVOCET CORNER BOOKSTORE

Tracy and volunteer Lori have been busy this month! They've created the newest item in the bookstore – bags made from recycled materials which will be on sale for \$2.00. Tracy also has commissioned these beautiful picture magnets. Be sure to check it out!

